



Connecticut Department of

ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Daniel C. Esty, Commissioner

January 15, 2014

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy
Governor, State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

I am writing to inform you that effective February 3, 2014 I intend to relinquish my role as Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and return to my teaching position at Yale University. As my three-year public service leave from Yale draws to a close, I want to thank you for the incredible privilege and honor that it has been to serve in your Administration and to lead the dedicated staff at DEEP.

I am proud of all that has been accomplished in the past three years on the environmental and energy fronts with an extraordinary degree of leadership and personal involvement on your part – supported by the hard work of the DEEP staff. Together, we have fundamentally transformed Connecticut's approach to environmental regulation, conservation and outdoor recreation, and energy policymaking by:

- Undertaking dozens of “LEAN” process improvements that have allowed us to transform every system in the Department and making our regulatory programs much more “customer oriented,” efficient, and compliance focused
- Removing dozens of outdated, outmoded, duplicative, and/or inefficient regulatory requirements
- Redesigning permitting programs through the expanded use of General Permits and LEAN techniques so that 90% of permit applications are acted on within 60 days
- Reducing the backlog of permit applications across the agency – with dramatic reductions of 100% in the Air Management Bureau and 97% in the Office of Long Island Sound Programs, which issues permits for docks and coastal structures
- Achieving significant progress toward becoming a paperless agency, with investments in new information technology platforms, public engagement portals, and data and metrics for management purposes
- Dramatically increasing investment in state parks infrastructure, Clean Water Fund capital projects, and brownfields redevelopment
- Re-engineering how Connecticut manages waste, designed to reap greater value from recycling and materials management

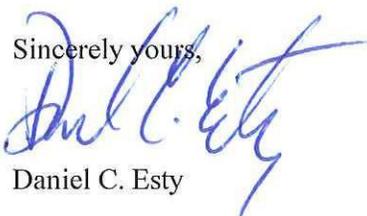
- Continuing to promote land conservation and acquire open space despite very tight budgets
- Broadening the focus on outdoor recreation opportunities with the launch of the State Park Centennial Celebration and the continued growth of the No Child Left Inside program, which encourages outdoor exploration and exercise and fosters the next generation of environmental stewards
- Increasing sustainable forest management to improve Connecticut's forestry, wildlife, watershed and fisheries habitats
- Delivering the state's first Comprehensive Energy Strategy, putting Connecticut on a path toward a cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy future
- Helping to bring down energy bills for Connecticut families and improving the competitiveness and growth prospects of the state's businesses
- Launching the first-in-the-nation Green Bank which has provided an entirely new approach to clean energy finance – driving innovation in the marketplace and funding projects at an unprecedented scale
- Ramping up renewable energy projects in the state tenfold over the pace of deployment in 2010
- Using reverse auctions and long-term contracts to lower the cost of clean energy projects to ratepayers, enabling limited public money to leverage much greater amounts of private capital
- Expanding the availability of cost-effective energy efficiency options for Connecticut's families and businesses
- Sharpening Connecticut's focus on climate change adaptation and response, with emphasis on community and ecological resiliency, microgrids, and expanded distributed generation
- Engaging the New England states in a path-breaking, regional commitment to building energy infrastructure, including new transmission lines to access cheaper, cleaner electricity and expanded natural gas capacity to provide us a future with greater energy supply options, enhanced reliability, and lower costs

Together we have done a great deal in a relatively short time. This progress was made possible, in no small part, because of the cooperative spirit and expertise of the extraordinary team of Commissioners and senior staff that you have assembled.

On a personal note, I want you to know what a privilege and pleasure it has been for this Connecticut native son to play a part in the protection and improvement of the bountiful resources of this state and to fundamentally reshape our state's energy future. As a boy spending the day at Black Rock State Park, I never could have imagined that I would have the opportunity to lead the agency so central to protecting that park as well as Long Island Sound, and all of the other parks, forests, rivers, and lakes that make Connecticut a special place to live and work.

I owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude for the opportunity that you have provided me, and I remain at your service as I transition back to my professorial role at Yale.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel C. Esty